



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.1707 | FAX (517) 373.3935
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/toy/

For Immediate Release
August 18, 2005

Contact: Heather Lombardini
(517) 373-1707

Senator Toy's bill to help disabled veterans secure state contracts signed into law

LANSING – Senate Bill 303, which requires preference be given to disabled veterans when awarding state contracts, was signed into law by the governor, announced State Senator Laura Toy, R-Livonia.

“Today we send the right message to Michigan’s disabled veterans,” Senator Toy said. “We remember and are profoundly grateful for your service and sacrifice, and we respect and support the contributions you continue to make to our great state and nation today.”

SB 303 would set a goal that not less than 3 percent of total state expenditures for construction, goods and services are awarded to businesses owned by veterans with a service-connected disability.

Under a companion bill in the bipartisan package, the Department of Management and Budget would be required to report to the Legislature each year on its progress towards awarding state contracts to disabled veterans and other persons with disabilities.

“This legislation is a tangible way to give back to those who have given so much of themselves for our benefit,” said Senator Toy, who serves as chair of the Michigan Senate’s Veteran Affairs Committee. “We have to be serious about helping those who have helped to defend our nation.”

Senator Toy noted that a purchasing preference law for disabled-owned businesses has been on the books in Michigan for more than 15 years, yet the goals of that law have never been met and the reporting requirements in statute have never been honored.

“My legislation requires preference be given to veterans and sets a goal for the state to aim for,” Senator Toy said. “We need to enforce these laws and make sure that our veterans benefit. I am dedicated to helping the men and women who have served our country.”

Senator Toy’s legislation, Public Act 91 of 2005, passed both the Michigan Senate and House of Representatives by unanimous votes.

###